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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JEFFREY SIMON,

Plaintiff,

VS.

UNUM LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF AMERICA AND THE
LIPMAN COMPANY DBA OPTI-
SOURCE;

Defendants.

CASE NO: 07-CV-02213 WDB

FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR:

BREACH OF THE EMPLOYEE
RETIREMENT INCOME
SECURITY ACT OF 1974;
INJUNCTIVE AND
DECLARATORY RELIEF;
PREJUDGMENT AND
POSTJUDGMENT INTEREST;
AND ATTORNEYS' FEES' AND
COSTS

Plaintiff, Jeffrey Simon herein sets forth the allegations of his First Amended Complaint against Defendants UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA AND THE LIPMAN COMPANY DBA OPTI-SOURCE.

PRELIMINARY ALLEGATIONS

1. "Jurisdiction" - This action is brought under 29 U.S.C. sections 1132(a), (e), (f) and (g) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (hereinafter "ERISA") as it involves a claim by Plaintiff for employee benefits under employee benefit plans regulated and governed under ERISA. Jurisdiction is predicated under

1 these code sections as well as 28 U.S.C. sections 1331 as this action involves a federal
2 question. This action is brought for the purpose of obtaining benefits under the terms of
3 an employee benefit plan; to clarify and enforce Plaintiff's past, present and future rights
4 to benefits under all of the employee benefit plans named herein as defendants; and, to
5 obtain other equitable relief, including but not limited to, restitution, an injunction
6 ordering defendants to qualify Plaintiff for the receipt of benefits and to pay Plaintiff
7 benefits to which Plaintiff is entitled; for prejudgement and postjudgment interest; and
8 for attorneys' fees and costs.

9 2. Plaintiff was at all times relevant, an employee of Simpata, Inc., and a
10 resident and citizen of the County of Alameda. Plaintiff is currently residing in Alameda
11 County.

12 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant UNUM LIFE
13 INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA ("UNUM") is a corporation with its principal
14 place of business in the State of Maine, authorized to transact and transacting business
15 in the Northern District of California and can be found in the Northern District of
16 California. UNUM is the insurer of benefits under the LTD Plan. Defendant UNUM
17 is also a Plan fiduciary as defined under ERISA.

18 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendant THE LIPMAN
19 COMPANY DBA OPTI-SOURCE (hereinafter "LTD Plan") is an employee welfare
20 benefit plan regulated by ERISA, established by Simpata, Inc., under which Plaintiff is
21 and was a participant, and pursuant to which Plaintiff is entitled to Long Term Disability
22 ("LTD") benefits under. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the LTD Plan, Plaintiff
23 is entitled to LTD benefits for the duration of Plaintiff's disability, for so long as Plaintiff
24 remains totally disabled as required under the terms of the LTD Plan. At all relevant
25 times the LTD Plan was doing business in this judicial district, in that it covers
26 employees residing in this judicial district. Defendants can be found in this judicial
27 district and the Defendant Plan is administered in this judicial district. The LTD claim
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1 at issue herein was also specifically administered in this judicial district. Thus, venue
2 is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 29 U.S.C. section 1132(e)(2) (special venue
3 rules applicable to ERISA actions).

4 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST**
5 **THE LIPMAN COMPANY DBA OPTI-SOURCE**
6 **AND UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA**
7 **FOR DENIAL OF PLAN BENEFITS**

8 5. At all times relevant, Plaintiff was employed by Simpata, Inc. During the
9 course of Plaintiff's employment, Plaintiff became entitled to benefits under the terms
10 and conditions of the LTD Plan and other employee benefit plans established and
11 maintained by Simpata, Inc. Specifically, while Plaintiff was covered under the LTD
12 Plan, Plaintiff suffered a disability rendering Plaintiff totally disabled as defined under
13 the terms of the LTD Plan.

14 6. At all times herein mentioned, Plaintiff was a covered participant under the
15 terms and conditions of the LTD Plan.

16 7. Pursuant to the terms of the LTD Plan, Plaintiff made a claim to UNUM for
17 LTD benefits under the Plan. Plaintiff's claim for benefits was denied on November 6,
18 2001. Pursuant to the Unum Regulatory Settlement Agreement, in September 2006,
19 Plaintiff made a claim to Unum for reassessment.. On January 31, 2007, Unum advised
20 Plaintiff that it had completed its reassessment of his claim and determined that Plaintiff
21 was entitled to benefits for the closed period of time, February 3, 2001 through June
22 2002 and paid him said benefits in 2007. Plaintiff appealed Unum's determination that
23 he was only entitled to benefits through June 2002 and on April 11, 2007, UNUM
24 erroneously and wrongfully continued to uphold its prior determination denying
25 Plaintiff's claim for LTD benefits past June 2002.

26 8. Defendants UNUM and LTD Plan wrongfully denied Plaintiff's claim, in
27 the following respects:
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1 (a) Failure to pay LTD benefit payments to Plaintiff at a time when
2 UNUM and the LTD Plan knew, or should have known, that Plaintiff was entitled to
3 those benefits under the terms of the LTD Plan, as Plaintiff was disabled and unable to
4 work and therefore entitled to benefits. Even though the LTD Plan and UNUM had such
5 knowledge, UNUM denied Plaintiff's LTD benefits;

6 (b) Withholding LTD benefits from Plaintiff knowing Plaintiff's claim
7 was valid, for the reasons set forth in subparagraph (a) above;

8 (c) Failure to provide a prompt and reasonable explanation of the basis
9 relied on under the terms of the LTD Plan documents, in relation to the applicable facts
10 and LTD Plan provisions, for the denial of Plaintiff's claims for LTD benefits;

11 (d) After Plaintiff's claim was denied in whole or in part, UNUM failed
12 to adequately describe to Plaintiff any additional material or information necessary for
13 Plaintiff to perfect his claim along with an explanation of why such material is or was
14 necessary;

15 (e) Concealing and withholding from Plaintiff the notice requirements
16 UNUM and the LTD Plan were required to provide Plaintiff pursuant to ERISA and the
17 regulations promulgated thereunder, particularly Code of Federal Regulations
18 §2560.503-1(e) - (g), inclusive; and

19 (f) Failing to properly and adequately investigate the merits of Plaintiff's
20 disability claim.

21 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that these named
22 defendants wrongfully denied his disability benefits under the LTD Plan by other acts
23 or omissions of which Plaintiff is presently unaware, but which may be discovered in this
24 future litigation and which Plaintiff will immediately make defendants aware of once
25 said acts or omissions are discovered by Plaintiff.

26 10. Following the denial of Plaintiff's disability claim under the LTD Plan,
27 Plaintiff exhausted all administrative remedies required under ERISA, and Plaintiff has
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1 performed all duties and obligations on Plaintiff's part to be performed under the LTD
2 Plan.

3 11. As a proximate result of the aforementioned wrongful conduct of the LTD
4 Plan and UNUM, and each of them, Plaintiff has damages for loss of disability benefits
5 in a total sum to be shown at the time of trial.

6 12. As a further direct and proximate result of this improper determination
7 regarding Plaintiff's LTD claim, Plaintiff in pursuing this action has been required to
8 incur attorneys' costs and fees. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. section 1132(g)(1), Plaintiff is
9 entitled to have such fees and costs paid by Defendant(s).

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11 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST**
12 **THE LIPMAN COMPANY DBA OPTI-SOURCE**
13 **AND UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA**
14 **FOR EQUITABLE RELIEF**

15 13. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 13 as
16 though fully set forth herein.

17 14. As a direct and proximate result of the failure of the LTD Plan and/or
18 UNUM to pay disability benefits to Plaintiff, and the resulting injuries and damages
19 sustained by Plaintiff as alleged herein, Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby requests that
20 this Court grant Plaintiff the following relief pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 1132(a)(1)(B):

21 (a) Restitution of all past benefits due to Plaintiff under the LTD Plan,
22 plus prejudgment and postjudgment interest at the lawful rate;

23 (b) A mandatory injunction issued requiring defendants LTD Plan and
24 UNUM to immediately qualify Plaintiff for past disability benefits under the LTD Plan,
25 and to continue such qualification for so long as Plaintiff remains totally disabled under
26 the terms of the Plan; and

27 (c) Such other and further relief as the Court deems necessary and proper
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1 to protect Plaintiff's interests as a disabled employee and/or participant under the LTD
2 Plan.

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST DEFENDANTS
THE LIPMAN COMPANY DBA OPTI-SOURCE UNUM LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF AMERICA
FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF

15. Plaintiff refers to and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 15 as though fully set forth herein.

16. A controversy now exists between UNUM and/or the LTD Plan on the one hand and Plaintiff on the other as to whether Plaintiff is disabled under the terms of the LTD Plan. Plaintiff seeks a declaration by this Court that Plaintiff meets the LTD Plan definition of disability and was and is entitled to continued LTD benefits from Defendant UNUM and/or the LTD Plan. Plaintiff further seeks a declaration by this Court that if in fact Plaintiff is found to have been and continued to remain disabled under the terms of the controlling Plan documents, that all benefits provided under the Plan while a participant is disabled, be reinstated retroactive to the date Plaintiff's disability benefits should have been awarded.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief against Defendants as follows:

1. Payment of disability benefits due Plaintiff, including any and all prejudgment and postjudgment interest;

2. For a declaration that Plaintiff is disabled under the terms of the LTD Plan and entitled to receive benefits for the same while Plaintiff is, was and continues to remain disabled;

3. For injunctive relief requiring payment of all disability benefits and any other employee benefits owed under the LTD Plan;

4. Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. section 1132(g) for all costs and attorney fees incurred in pursuing this action;

- 1 5. For prejudgement and postjudgment interest as allowed for under ERISA;
2 and
3 6. For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.
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5 DATED: August 3, 2007

KANTOR & KANTOR, LLP

/S/ CORINNE CHANDLER

7 BY _____

8 CORINNE CHANDLER
9 ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF
10 JEFFREY SIMON
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PROOF OF SERVICE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) ss.

I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 17216 Parthenia Street, Northridge, California 91325.

On August 3, 2007, I served the foregoing document described as: FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR: BREACH OF THE EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974; INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF; PREJUDGMENT AND POSTJUDGMENT INTEREST; AND ATTORNEYS' FEES' AND COSTS in this action by personally serving a true copy thereof addressed as follows:

John C. Ferry, Esq.
Kelly, Herlihy & Klein LLP
44 Montgomery Street, #2500
San Francisco, CA 94104-4798

(BY MAIL)

☒ I deposited such envelope in the mail at Northridge, California. The envelope was mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid.

☒ As follows: I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with U.S. postal service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Northridge, California in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

☐ (BY PERSONAL SERVICE) I caused such envelope to be delivered by hand to the offices of the addressee.

☐ (BY FACSIMILE) I faxed such document to the facsimile number above following regular business practices.

☐ (STATE) I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct.

☒ (FEDERAL) I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this court at whose direction the service was made.

Executed on August 3, 2007, Northridge, California.

/S/ LISA J. BLAYLOCK

LISA J. BLAYLOCK